This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A signal processing device, comprising:

inputting means for inputting a video signal;

~~compressing~~ encoding means for [compressing] encoding to compress an amount of information of the video signal;

generating means for generating a character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said [compressing] encoding means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the video signal to perform a [compressing] encoding process by said [compressing] encoding means and storing the character signal generated by said generating means to perform a combining operation of the character signal.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, further comprising:

combining means for combining the character signal generated by said generating means with the video signal.

3. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein said ~~compressing~~ encoding means ~~compresses~~ encodes to compress an amount of information of the video signal outputted from said combining means.

4. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 3, further comprising:

outputting means for outputting the video signal the amount of information of

2

which has been ~~compressed~~ encoded by said ~~compressing~~ encoding means to a recording device, said recording device recording the vide signal outputted from said outputting means on the recording medium.

5. (Original) A device according to claim 2, further comprising:

outputting means for outputting a video signal outputted from said combining means to a display device, said display device displaying an image represented by the video signal outputted from said outputting means.

6. (Original) A device according the claim 2, wherein said combining means combines the character signal with a video signal captured by the image pickup means.

7. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said memory means has a first area for storing a video signal an amount of which is to be [compressed] encoded by said [compressing] encoding means, a second area for storing a video signal an amount of which has been ~~compressed~~ encoded by said ~~compressing~~ encoding means, and a third area which is different from said first area and said second area, said generating means generating the character signal by using the third area

8. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 7, further comprising:

outputting means for reading out from said second area the video signal the amount of which has been ~~compressed~~ encoded and outputting the read-out video signal to a recording device, said recording device recording the video signal outputted from said outputting means on a recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said memory means

3

has a first area which is to be accessed by said [compressing] <u>encoding</u> means, and a second

area which corresponds to an image plane represented by the video signal and which is

different from the first area, and wherein said generating means comprises memory control

means for writing into said second area a plurality of codes representing a value of pixel data

of the character signal, and a table for outputting pixel data corresponding to codes read out

from said second area.

    10. (Original) A device according to claim 9, further comprising:

        combining means for combining the character signal generated by said

generating means with the video signal,

        the codes representing control data for controlling a combining operation of

said combining means, said combining means performing the combining operation in

accordance with the codes.

    11. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein said ~~compressing~~

<u>encoding</u> means comprises orthogonal transform means for orthogonally transforming the

video signal, quantization means for quantizing orthogonal transform coefficients from said

orthogoanl transform means, and variable-length coding means for variable-length-coding an

output of said quantization means.

    12. (Currently Amended) A signal processing device, comprising:

        inputting means for inputting a <u>compressed</u> video signal;

4

expanding means for expanding an amount of information of the <u>compressed</u> video signal <u>and outputting an expanded video signal</u>;

generating means for generating a character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said [compressing] <u>expanding</u> means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the <u>compressed</u> video signal to perform an expanding process by said expanding means and storing the character signal generated by said generating means to perform a combining operation of the character signal <u>and the expanded video signal</u>.

13. (Original) A device according to claim 12, further comprising:

combining means for combining the character signal generated by said generating means with the video signal.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 13, further comprising:

outputting means for outputting a video signal outputted from said combining means to a display device, said display device displaying an image represented by the <u>expanded</u> video signal outputted by said ~~expansion~~ <u>expanding</u> means.

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein said inputting means for inputting the <u>compressed</u> video signal reproduced from a recording medium by a reproduction device and writing the reproduced video signal into said memory means, said expanding means expanding an amount of information of the <u>compressed</u> video signal written into said memory means by said inputting means.

5

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein said memory means has a first area for storing a <u>compressed</u> video signal an amount of which is to be expanded by said expanding means, a second area for storing a <u>expanded</u> video signal an amount of which has been expanded by said expanding means, and a third area which is different from said first area and said second area, said generating means generating the third character signal by using said third area.

18. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, wherein said memory means has a first area which is to be accessed by said expanding means, and a second area which corresponds to an image plane represented by the <u>expanded</u> video signal and which is different from said first area, and wherein said generating means comprises memory control means for writing into said second area a plurality of codes representing a value of pixel data of the character signal, and a table for outputting pixel data corresponding to codes read out from said second area.

19. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 18, further comprising:

combining means for combining the character signal generated by said generating means with the <u>expanded</u> video signal the amount of which has been expanded by said expanding means,

the codes indicating a combining operation of said combining means, said combining means performing the combining operation in accordance with the codes.

20. (Currently Amended) A signal processing device, comprising:

inputting means for inputting a video signal;

6

processing means for performing a predetermined process on the video signal and outputting a processed video signal;

generating means for generating a character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said [compressing] processing means and said generating means and having a common memory for storing the video signal and the processed video signal so as to perform the predetermined process by said processing means and storing the character signal generated by said generating means to perform a combining operation of the character signal.

21. (Original) A device according to claim 20, wherein said processing means includes a high-efficiency encoding means for compressing an amount of information of the video signal and for encoding the video signal.

22. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 21, wherein said memory means has a first area which is to be accessed by said high-efficiency encoding means, and a second area other than said first area, said generating means generating the character signal by using the second area.

23. (Original) A device according to claim 21, wherein said processing means further comprising error correction encoding means for error-correction-encoding the encoded video signal.

24. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 23, wherein said memory means has a first area which is to be accessed by said high-efficiency encoding means, a second area which is to be accessed by said error correction encoding means, and a third area other than

7

said first area and said second area, said generating means generating the character signal using said third area.

25. (Original) A device according to claim 20, wherein said processing means includes a high-efficiency decoding means for decoding the video signal and for expanding an amount of the decoded video signal.

26. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 25, wherein said memory means has a first area which is to be accessed by said high-efficiency decoding means, and a second area other than said first area, said generating means generating the character signal by using said second area.

27. (Original) A device according to claim 25, wherein said processing means further includes error-correction-decoding means for correcting any error in the video signal.

28. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 27, wherein said memory means includes a first area which is to be accessed by said high-efficiency decoding means, a second area which is to be accessed by said error correction decoding means, and a third area other than said first area and said second area, said generating means generating the character signal by using said third area.

-- 29. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus, comprising:

inputting means for inputting a video signal;

compressing means for compressing an amount of information of the video signal and outputting a compressed video signal;

8

recording means for recording on a recording medium the <u>compressed</u> video signal ~~the amount of which has been compressed by said compressing means~~ ;

generating means for generating a character signal; and

memory means connected to each of said compressing means, <u>said recording means</u> and said generating means, and having a common memory for storing the video signal to perform a compressing process by said compressing means, <u>the compressed video signal outputted from said compressing means to record on the recording medium by said recording means</u> and ~~storing~~ the character signal generated by said generating means to perform a combining operation of the character signal.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising;

combining means for combining the character signal with the video signal.

31. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said compressing means compresses an amount of information of a combined video signal outputted from said combining means, said recording means recording the combined video signal outputted from said compressing means.

32. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 30, further comprising:

display means for displaying an image represented by the combined video signal outputted from said combining means.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according the claim 29, further comprising:

9

reproducing means for reproducing from the recording medium the <u>compressed</u> video signal ~~the amount of which has been~~ compressed by said compressing means, and for writing the reproduced video signal into said memory means.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising:

expanding means for expanding an ~~amountof~~ <u>amount of</u> information of the reproduced video signal by using said memory means; and

combining means for combining the character ~~siganl~~ <u>signal</u> with the video signal the amount of which has been expanded by said expanding means.

10